

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. In this paper, claims 1, 15, and 16 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 1-4, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for being anticipated by European Patent No. 1238620. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a scraper positioned in the air channel for scraping carpet fibers, "wherein the scraper includes air path therethrough." (See, for example, page 15, lines 11-21, of the specification and Figures 6-8 of the application drawings for support). The air path formed in the scraper allows air to flow to the suction hole through the scraper. As a result of the air path, a stronger suction force is directed toward the suction hole and therefore more effective removal of dust and other alien substances especially at the roots of the carpet fibers can be achieved. These features are not disclosed by the EP 620 patent.

The EP 620 patent is stated to have a scraper; however, the Examiner did not specifically identify where the scraper may be found in the specification or drawings of this patent. Moreover, the EP 620 patent is not published in English and therefore the location of the scraper is not apparent to Applicants. Notwithstanding these issues, the EP 620 patent does not disclose a scraper that includes an air path therethrough as recited in claim 1 and therefore will not be able to create the type of suction force achievable by the claimed invention.

Because the EP 620 patent does not disclose all the features in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the EP 620 patent does not anticipate this claim or any of its dependent claims. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to recite features similar to those added by amendment to claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that claims 15, 16, and their dependent claims are also allowable over the EP 620 patent.

Claims 1-4, 15, and 16 were also rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for being anticipated by the EP 881 patent. This patent discloses a nozzle for a vacuum cleaner that includes one or more scrapers. However, none of these scrapers include an air path therethrough as recited in claims 1, 15, and 16. Therefore, like the EP 620 patent, the nozzle disclosed in the EP 881 patent will not be able to create the type of suction force achievable by the claimed invention. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1, 15, 16, and their dependent claims are allowable over the EP 881 patent.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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